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PROCEEDINGS

OF

THE ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY.

1841.

No. 28.

February 22, 1841.

REV. H. LLOYD, D. D., Vice-President, in the Chair.

Mr. Charles T. Webber presented to the Academy an ancient stone, on which is carved a rude bass-relief, supposed to be the representation of a dog killing a wolf. Mr. Webber accompanied the present with a communication to the effect. that the stone was taken from the Castle of Ardnaglass, in the barony of Tireragh and county of Sligo, and was said to commemorate the destruction of the last wolf in The current tradition in the place from whence it came was, that some years after it was supposed that the race of wolves was extinct, the flocks in the county of Leitrim were attacked by a wild animal which turned out to be a wolf; that thereupon the chieftains of Leitrim applied to O'Dowd, the chieftain of Tireragh, (who possessed a celebrated dog of the breed of the ancient Irish wolf dog), to come and hunt the wolf; which application being complied with by O'Dowd, there ensued a chase, which forms the subject of an ancient Irish legend, detailing the various districts through which it was pursued, until at length the wolf was overtaken and killed in a small wood of pine trees, at the foot of one of the mountains The quarter of land on which the wolf was in Tireragh. killed, is to this day called Carrow na Madhoo, which means the dogs' quarter. In commemoration of the event, O'Dowd had the annexed representation of it carved on the stone, and placed in the wall of his baronial residence.

The Secretary read the following "Collection of Notes on the early History of Science in Ireland." By James Orchard Halliwell, Esq., F. R. S., F. S. A., F. R. A. S., &c.

- "The following scraps on a subject which has never yet been treated of by any writer with whose works I am acquainted, although unfolding no views of any great importance, will, it is believed, form a subject of discussion interesting to all natives of Ireland, who would think favourably of the intellectual character and resources of their countrymen.
- "The earliest remnant of Irish science that I have met with, is contained in MS. Arundel, 333, in the British Museum, which contains several medical and astrological tracts in the Irish language of the thirteenth century, together with similar tracts of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. These tracts are of a similar nature with contemporary manuscripts written in England and on the continent.